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Report of the World Conference on Human Rights

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CONTENTS

Chapter		Paragraph	Page
	Introduction	1 - 14	4
I.	ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE	15 - 88	9
	A. Pre-sessional consultations by senior officials	15	9
	B. Opening of the Conference	16	9
	C. Attendance	17 - 20	9
	D. Election of the President of the Conference	21	10
	E. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the Conference	22	10
	F. Election of other officers of the Conference	23	10
	G. Appointment of the Credentials Committee	24 - 26	10
	H. Establishment of committees	27 - 28	11
	I. General debate	29 - 61	11
	J. Commemoration of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People	62 - 71	16
	K. Theme days and other activities	72 - 83	17
	L. Main Committee	84 - 86	18
	M. Drafting Committee	86 - 87	18
II.	ADOPTION OF THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE	88 - 93	19
III.	VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION		20
IV.	DECISION, SPECIAL DECLARATION AND RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE WORLD CONFERENCE		47
	A. Decision		47
	B. Special declarations		47
	C. Resolution		51

CONTENTS (continued)

Annexes*

Chapter

I. Agenda of the World Conference on Human Rights

II. List of attendance

III. Addresses delivered at the opening of the Conference

IV. Special messages addressed to the Conference

V. Report of the meeting of representatives of national institutions

VI. Report of the meeting of persons chairing international and regional human rights treaty-based bodies

VII. Joint declaration of the independent experts responsible for the special procedures for the protection of human rights

VIII. Report of the forum for non-governmental organizations

IX. Statements made upon the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

X. List of other meetings and activities in the preparatory process

XI. List of documents issued for the first, second, third and fourth sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference

XII. List of documents issued for the World Conference

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* See document A/CONF.157/24 (Part II).

Introduction

1. The General Assembly of the United Nations, by its resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990, decided to convene at a high level a World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 with the following objectives:

> "(a) To review and assess the progress that has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to identify obstacles to further progress in this area, and ways in which they can be overcome;
>
> "(b) To examine the relation between development and the enjoyment by everyone of economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights, recognizing the importance of creating the conditions whereby everyone may enjoy these rights as set out in the International Covenants on Human Rights;
>
> "(c) To examine ways and means to improve the implementation of existing human rights standards and instruments;
>
> "(d) To evaluate the effectiveness of the methods and mechanisms used by the United Nations in the field of human rights;
>
> "(e) To formulate concrete recommendations for improving the effectiveness of United Nations activities and mechanisms in the field of human rights through programmes aimed at promoting, encouraging and monitoring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
>
> "(f) To make recommendations for ensuring the necessary financial and other resources for United Nations activities in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms."

2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly also decided to establish a Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, which should be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly. The Preparatory Committee was to have the mandate to make proposals for the consideration of the General Assembly regarding the agenda, date, duration, venue of and participation in the Conference, preparatory meetings and activities at the international, regional and national levels, which should take place in 1992, and on desirable studies and other documentation.

3. The Preparatory Committee held its first session at Geneva from 9 to 13 September 1991. It submitted a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (A/46/24).

4. By its resolution 46/116 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly decided that the Preparatory Committee, at its second session, would base the elaboration of the provisional agenda for the World Conference on Human Rights on paragraph 1 of resolution 45/155 (see para. 1 of the present report). In paragraph 4 of the same resolution, the Assembly decided, in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee:

"(a) (i) That the provisional agenda for the Conference and the documentation related thereto shall be taken up by the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

"(ii) That the draft rules of procedure for the Conference shall be taken up by the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

"(iii) That the Conference shall be convened at Berlin, for a period of two weeks in 1993;

"(iv) That the Secretary-General shall give the Conference and the preparatory process thereto the widest possible publicity and ensure full coordination of public information activities in the area of human rights within the United Nations system;

"(b) That the Preparatory Committee shall meet for three further sessions at Geneva, twice in 1992 and once in 1993, the next session to last two weeks and the two further sessions one to two weeks each, if necessary, and decides also that no more than two meetings shall take place simultaneously during the sessions of the Preparatory Committee and that no inter-sessional working group shall be established;

"(c) To reiterate its invitation for contributions of extrabudgetary resources to meet the costs of participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the preparatory meetings, including regional meetings, and the Conference itself, and to request the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts in this regard;

"(d) That, in accordance with the objectives and provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/155, regional meetings shall be convened for each region that so desires within the institutional framework or with the assistance of the regional commissions and that these meetings shall be financed as part of the preparatory work for the Conference, as recommended by the Commission on Human Rights in paragraph 8 of the annex to its resolution 1991/30;

"(e) To request the Secretary-General to prepare the following documentation as soon as possible and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its next session on the progress made in this regard:

"(i) A limited number of short, analytical and action-oriented studies on issues referred to in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 45/155 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30, in particular, paragraph 2 of the annex thereto, bearing in mind documentation prepared for, as well as statements made at, the first session of the Preparatory Committee;

"(ii) Reports of meetings that have been organized under the auspices of the United Nations human rights programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/155;

"(iii) A reference guide to all United Nations studies and reports on human rights or related aspects;

"(iv) An update of the publication entitled United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights;

"(v) An update of the publications entitled Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments and Human Rights: Status of International Instruments, including also texts of regional instruments on human rights;

and to note that the Preparatory Committee decided that the experts and consultants employed for this purpose should be selected with due regard to equitable geographical distribution;

"(f) To encourage the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, the chairmen or other designated members of human rights bodies, including the chairmen of bodies established under international human rights instruments or their designated representatives, as well as special rapporteurs and the chairmen or designated members of working groups, to participate as observers, as appropriate, in the work of the Preparatory Committee and the Conference".

5. In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of General Assembly resolution 46/116, the Preparatory Committee held its second and third sessions in 1992 and submitted reports thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (A/47/24 and Add.1).

6. In accordance with paragraph 4 (d) of the same resolution, regional meetings were held in the course of the preparatory process. The regional meeting for Africa was held at Tunis from 2 to 6 November 1992. The meeting adopted resolutions and a Declaration (see A/CONF.157/AFRM/14-A/CONF.157/PC/57). The regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean was held at San José from 18 to 22 January 1993. The San José Declaration on Human Rights adopted at that meeting is contained in document A/CONF.157/LACRM/15-A/CONF.157/PC/58. The regional meeting for Asia was convened at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok from 29 March to 2 April 1993 and adopted a Declaration (see A/CONF.157/ASRM/8-A/CONF.157/PC/59).

7. Other meetings and activities were organized under the auspices of the United Nations human rights programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/155. A list of these meetings is attached as annex X to the present document. An analytical compilation of the outcomes of these meetings is contained in documents A/CONF.157/PC/42 and Add.1.

8. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly also adopted decision 46/473 of 6 May 1992, entitled "Venue and dates of the World Conference on Human Rights", in which the Assembly, noting with deep satisfaction the decision of the Government of Austria to invite the World Conference on Human Rights to meet at Vienna, decided that the World Conference would be convened at Vienna for two weeks in June 1993.

9. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/122 of 18 December 1992, by which it approved the draft rules of procedure for the World Conference on Human Rights, as recommended by the Preparatory Committee at its second and third sessions, with the exception of rule 15 (e); decided that the distribution of the 29 Vice-Presidents of the World Conference on Human Rights should be in accordance with the established criteria of the General Assembly based on equitable geographical distribution; and approved the provisional agenda for the World Conference on Human Rights as annexed to that resolution.

10. The agenda of the World Conference on Human Rights is reproduced in annex I to the present report.

11. In the same resolution, the General Assembly approved the recommendation made by the Preparatory Committee at its third session regarding the participation of non-governmental organizations in regional meetings related to the preparatory process. In that recommendation, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General to invite:

> "(a) Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council which are active in the field of human rights and/or development as well as in the concerned region;
>
> "(b) Other non-governmental organizations which are active in the field of human rights and/or development, and have their headquarters in the concerned region, in prior consultation with the countries in the region which designate representatives properly accredited by them to participate as observers in the regional meeting."

12. In paragraph 7 of the same resolution, the General Assembly decided, in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee:

> "(a) (i) That the Preparatory Committee shall meet for its fourth session at Geneva, for a period of two weeks in April 1993;

"(ii) That the question of the final outcome of the World Conference shall be taken up by the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session, taking into consideration, inter alia, the preparatory work and conclusions of the regional meetings to be held at Tunis, San José and Bangkok;

"(iii) That the Secretary-General shall give the Conference and the preparatory process thereto the widest possible publicity and ensure full coordination of public information activities in the area of human rights within the United Nations system".

13. The Preparatory Committee held its fourth session at Geneva from 19 April to 7 May 1993. The report of that meeting is contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/98.

14. The World Conference on Human Rights met at Vienna, at the Austria Centre, from 14 to 25 June 1993.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Pre-sessional consultations by senior officials

15. Prior to the World Conference on Human Rights, consultations were held from 9 to 12 June, at Vienna, by senior officials of the Governments representing the States Members participating in the World Conference.

B. Opening of the Conference

16. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros-Ghali, declared the Conference open on 14 June 1993, and an inaugural address was delivered by the President of Austria, H.E. Mr. Thomas Klestil. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Human Rights, Mr. Ibrahima Fall, and the Federal Chancellor of Austria, H.E. Mr. Franz Vranitzky, also delivered addresses at the opening. These statements are reproduced in annex III to the present report.

C. Attendance

17. The World Conference on Human Rights was attended by the representatives of 171 States, 2 national liberation movements, 15 United Nations bodies, 10 specialized agencies, 18 intergovernmental organizations, 24 national institutions and 6 Ombudsmen, 11 United Nations human rights and related bodies, 9 other organizations, 248 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and 593 other non-governmental organizations.

18. The list of participants is reproduced in annex II to the present report.

19. The Secretary-General of the United Nations had invited the following eight eminent persons to the World Conference on Human Rights as his special guests: Ms. Elena Bonner, Russian human rights activist; Mr. Jimmy Carter, former President of the United States of America; Mrs. Simone Veil, State Minister of France; Hassan bin Talal, Crown Prince of Jordan; Ms. Rigoberta Menchú Tum, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize (Guatemala); Mr. Wole Soyinka, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature (Nigeria); Mr. Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC); Mrs. Corazon Aquino, former President of the Philippines.

20. Of the eight special guests, the following six persons attended and addressed the World Conference: 1/ Ms. Elena Bonner (17) Mr. Jimmy Carter (15), Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal (14), Ms. Rigoberta Menchú Tum (18), Mr. Wole Soyinka (17) and Mrs. Corazon Aquino (16).

1/ The numbers in brackets refer to the date on which the statement was made.

D. Election of the President of the Conference

21. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 14 June 1993, the Conference elected as President H.E. Mr. Alois Mock, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria. Upon his election, the President made a statement.

E. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the Conference

22. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 14 June 1993, the Conference adopted the provisional rules of procedure as contained in document A/47/24/Add.1, with the exception of rule 15 (e)* after having revised rules 6 and 11 to reflect the change in the number of Vice-Presidents and to refer to only one Main Committee.

F. Election of other officers of the Conference

23. At the same meeting, the Conference elected the following other officers:

Vice-Presidents:

Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Gambia, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Rapporteur-General:

Mr. Zdzislaw Kedzia (Poland)

Chairman of the Main Committee:

Mrs. Halima Embarek Warzazi (Morocco)

Chairman of the Drafting Committee:

Mr. Gilberto Vergne Saboia (Brazil)

G. Appointment of the Credentials Committee

24. At the same meeting, the Conference appointed the following nine members of the Credentials Committee: Argentina, Barbados, Benin, China, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, United States of America.

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* Rule 15 (e) refers to the provision of summary records of meetings by the Secretariat.

25. At the 19th plenary meeting, on 24 June 1993, the Conference adopted, without a vote, the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee in its report (A/CONF.157/14).

26. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter IV.

H. Establishment of committees

27. At its 2nd plenary meeting, the Conference decided to establish one Main Committee, composed of all Conference participants, to discuss agenda items 9, 10, 11 and 12, and one Drafting Committee, to negotiate and draft the final document, composed of all Government delegations. The consensus formulation as adopted in this regard was as follows: "Both these Committees shall meet simultaneously and ... it has to be understood that the work of the Drafting Committee must not be delayed by the Main Committee."

28. The Conference also decided that oral interventions by representatives of non-governmental organizations should be made in the plenary and the Main Committee, that oral interventions by representatives of non-governmental organizations in the Drafting Committee should be made during its formal session at the beginning of its work on questions related to the draft final document of the World Conference and that further such presentations should take place, as appropriate, during the work of the Drafting Committee by Government delegations, taking into account efficient time management, the thematic parameters and the agenda of the Drafting Committee.

I. General debate

29. During the general debate, at the 2nd to 22nd plenary meetings, from 14 to 25 June 1993, statements were made by the representatives of the following States: Afghanistan (22), Albania (15), Algeria (16), Angola (18), Argentina (16), Armenia (16), Australia (15), Austria (16), Azerbaijan (16), Bahrain (16), Bangladesh (16), Barbados (22), Belarus (16), Belgium (14), Benin (22), Bhutan (22), Bolivia (22), Bosnia and Herzegovina (15), Botswana (22), Brunei Darussalam (21), Brazil (14), Bulgaria (15), Burundi (21), Cameroon (19), Canada (16), Cape Verde (16), Chile (17), China (15), Costa Rica (21), Côte d'Ivoire (17), Colombia (16), Croatia (15), Cuba (16), Cyprus (17), Czech Republic (15), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (15), Denmark (on behalf of the European Community and its member States) (15), Denmark (17), Dominican Republic (24), Ecuador (22), Egypt (15), El Salvador (22), Estonia (15), Ethiopia (22), Fiji (22), Finland (16), France (15), Gabon (17), Gambia (15), Georgia (22), Germany (15), Ghana (17), Greece (17), Guatemala (22), Guinea (22), Haiti (18), Holy See (21), Honduras (24), Hungary (15), Iceland (17), India (15), Indonesia (14), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (17), Iraq (22), Ireland (14), Israel (15), Italy (16), Jamaica (22), Japan (18), Jordan (14), Kazakhstan (17), Kenya (14), Kuwait (15), Lao People's Democratic Republic (16), Latvia (17), Lebanon (17), Lesotho (22), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (18), Liechtenstein (17), Lithuania (15), Luxembourg (17), Madagascar (21), Malawi (22), Malaysia (18), Maldives (17), Mali (22), Malta (11), Marshall Islands (21), Mauritania (14), Mauritius (22), Mexico (14), Micronesia (21), Monaco (15), Mongolia (21), Morocco (16), Mozambique (17), Myanmar (17), Nepal (21), Netherlands (15), New Zealand (16), Nicaragua (17), Niger (22), Nigeria (14), Norway (15), Pakistan (16),

Panama (22), Papua New Guinea (16), Paraguay (22), Peru (14), Philippines (16), Poland (15), Portugal (16), Qatar (17), Republic of Korea (15), Republic of Moldova (18), Romania (15), Russian Federation (15), Rwanda (23), Sao Tome and Principe (22), Saudi Arabia (15), Senegal (17), Sierra Leone (22), Singapore (16), Slovak Republic (14), Slovenia (15), Spain (15), Sri Lanka (21), Sudan (18), Suriname (17), Swaziland (23), Sweden (16), Switzerland (16), Syrian Arab Republic (17), Tajikistan (22), Thailand (16), The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (14), Togo (15), Tunisia (23), Turkey (18), Uganda (16), Ukraine (15), United Arab Emirates (17), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (16), United Republic of Tanzania (23), United States of America (14), Uruguay (23), Vanuatu (23), Venezuela (15), Viet Nam (16), Western Samoa (22), Yemen (17), Zaire (23), Zambia (22), Zimbabwe (17).

30. Statements were made by the Chairman of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (17), the representative of the Committee against Torture (22), the Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (22) and the Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (21).

31. Statements were made by the representatives of the following United Nations bodies: Coordinator for the International Year of the Family (22), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (16), Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women (17), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (23), United Nations Development Fund for Women (17), United Nations Development Programme (21), United Nations Office at Vienna (22), United Nations Population Fund (17), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (21), United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (23).

32. Statements were made by the representatives of the following specialized agencies: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (18), International Labour Organisation (16), International Monetary Fund (18), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (15), World Bank (21), World Food Programme (22), World Health Organization (16).

33. A statement was made by the observer for Palestine (16).

34. A statement was also made by the observer for the African National Congress (21).

35. Statements were made by the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (14), Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (21), Agence de coopération culturelle et technique (22), Commission of the European Communities (15), Commonwealth Secretariat (17), Council of Europe (16), Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (14), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (21), European Commission on Human Rights (17), European Court of Human Rights (18), Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (23), Inter-American Court of Human Rights (23), International Organization for Migration (18), League of Arab States (22), Organization of African Unity (14), Permanent Arab Committee on Human Rights of the League of Arab States (21).

36. The representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross made a statement (23).

37. Statements were made by the representatives of the following national human rights institutions: Commission on the Defence of Human Rights (Kuwait) (23), Consultative Council of Human Rights of Morocco (18), Philippine Commission on Human Rights (23).

38. Joint statements were made by groups of non-governmental organizations on the following themes: disabled persons (23), indigenous people (21), international non-governmental organizations (24), refugees and displaced persons (23), torture (23), unrepresented people (23).

39. Joint statements were made by non-governmental groups of organizations from: African region (21), Asian and Pacific region (24), Central and Eastern European region (23), Latin American and the Caribbean region (23), Pacific region (23), people of colour from the Western European and other regions (24).

40. Joint statements were made by the following non-governmental organizations: Coalition and non-governmental organizations of Bosnia and Herzegovina (23), Fédération des femmes arabes and Union des femmes de Tunisie (24), International Council of Jewish Women, International Alliance of Women, International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty, International Association of Democratic Lawyers and European Association of Democratic Lawyers (24).

41. Statements were made by the following non-governmental organizations: Ambedkar Centre for Justice and Peace (23), American Association of Jurists (23), Amnesty International (22), Arab Organization of Human Rights (23), Asemblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos de Bolivia (24), Asian Cultural Forum on Development (22), Asian Students Association (25), Baha'i International Community (25), Coalition against Trafficking in Women (23), Committee for the Restoration of Human Rights in Cyprus (22), Confédération mondiale du travail (25), Consejo Internacional de Educación de Adultos (25), Diplomacy Training Programme (25), Disabled Peoples' International (24), Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere (23), Forum for the Protection of Human Rights (25), Friends of the Earth (23), Habitat International Coalition (25), Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (25), Human Rights Internet (23), Human Rights Movement of Kyrgyzstan (25), Huridocs (23), International Association against Torture (25), International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty (24), International Commission of Jurists (23), International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (22), International Educational Development (25), International Federation for the Protection of Rights of Ethnic, Religious, Linguistic and Other Minorities (23), International Federation of Human Rights (23), International Human Rights Organization (23), International League for Human Rights (24), International Planned Parenthood Federation (22), Inter-Parliamentary Union (22), International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (17), Japan Federation of Bar Associations (25), Justice and Peace Commission (25), Kazem Radjavi International Association for the Defense of Human Rights (25), KONUCH (25), Lawasia (24), Lawyers for a Democratic Society in Korea (25), Liberal International (24), Ligue togolaise pour les droits de l'homme (24),

Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre (24), Peoples' Union for Civil Liberties in India (25), Puebla Institute (22), Regional Council on Human Rights in Asia (25), Sikh Human Rights Group (23), Union interafricaine des droits de l'homme (25), United Nations Non-governmental Organizations Committee (24), Unity of Man (18), World Federation of United Nations Associations (25), World Jewish Congress (18), World Society of Victimology (23), World Peace Council (23).

42. Statements made in connection with theme days and other activities are listed in section K below (Theme days and other activities).

43. Statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of India (16), Indonesia (16), Iraq (17), Pakistan (16) and Portugal (16).

44. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 15 June 1993, with regard to the appeal made by the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina in his statement during the general debate, statements were made by the representatives of the following States: Algeria, Austria, Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, Dominica, Egypt, El Salvador, Gambia, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.

45. The Conference adopted, without a vote, a decision concerning the appeal on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

46. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter IV, section A.

Special declaration on Bosnia and Herzegovina

47. At the 19th plenary meeting, on 24 June 1993, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, introduced a draft special declaration on Bosnia and Herzegovina (A/CONF.157/L.2). He orally revised the draft special declaration by inserting a new paragraph as the twelfth paragraph.

48. At the 20th meeting, on 24 June 1993, the representative of Pakistan further orally revised the draft special declaration by deleting in the thirteenth paragraph, subparagraph 6, the words "and the extremist element in Bosnian Croatian forces against the Bosnian Muslims".

49. In accordance with rule 37, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure, a roll-call vote on the draft special declaration was taken.

50. Statements in explanations of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark (on behalf of the European Community and its member States, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Haiti, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway (on behalf of Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden), Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sudan, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

51. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Russian Federation.

Abstaining: Australia, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu.

52. The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour: 88

Against: 1

Abstentions: 54

53. Having received a two-thirds majority (60) of the 89 representatives present and voting (88 in favour, 1 against), the special declaration on Bosnia and Herzegovina was adopted.

54. Statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by the representatives of: Australia, Bhutan, Fiji, Guatemala, India, Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Peru, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Viet Nam.

55. The representative of Malawi subsequently stated that, had he been present at the voting, he would have voted in favour.

56. For the text of the special declaration as adopted, see chapter IV, section B.

Special declaration on Angola

57. At the 19th plenary meeting, on 24 June 1993, the representative of Kenya introduced a draft special declaration on Angola (A/CONF.157/L.3).

58. At the 20th plenary meeting, on 25 June 1993, the Conference adopted the special declaration on Angola without a vote.

59. The representative of Denmark made a statement on behalf of the European Community and its member States, in explanation of the position of their delegations.

60. The representatives of Australia, Canada, Japan, Sri Lanka and the United States of America subsequently stated that, had the draft special declaration on Angola been put to a vote, they would have abstained.

61. For the text of the special declaration on Angola as adopted, see chapter IV, section B.

J. Commemoration of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People

62. The Conference took up agenda item 8 at its eleventh plenary meeting on 18 June 1993.

63. The President of the World Conference on Human Rights made a statement opening the commemoration.

64. The Coordinator for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, Mr. Ibrahima Fall, made a statement.

65. The Chairman of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Ms. Erica-Irene Daes, made a statement.

66. Ms. Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Goodwill Ambassador for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, 1993, made a statement.

67. Statements were also made by indigenous representatives of North America, Latin America, Asia, Europe, Africa, and Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

68. Statements were made by the representatives of indigenous women and indigenous youth.

69. Statements were made by representatives of Kenya (on behalf of African States), Bolivia, Chile, Colombia and Mexico (on behalf of States of Latin America and the Caribbean), Australia, Denmark and Norway (on behalf

of Western European and other States). At the 12th plenary meeting, on 18 June 1993, the representative of the Russian Federation made a statement on behalf of Eastern European States.

70. At the same meeting, the Conference heard a joint statement on indigenous people made by representatives of non-governmental organizations.

71. Also at the same meeting, the Coordinator of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People made a statement closing the commemoration.

K. Theme days and other activities

72. Within the framework of the World Conference on Human Rights, specific days were designated as theme days for peace (15 June), development (16), women (17), children (21) and democracy (22).

73. At its 10th meeting, on 17 June 1993, the World Conference heard statements concerning the human rights of women. Statements were made by the representatives of the Global Women's Tribunal, Women in Law and Development in Africa, the Asia-Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development and the Coordinadora Paz para la Mujer.

74. The representative of the United Nations Development Fund for Women made a statement.

75. At its 13th plenary meeting, on 21 June 1993, the World Conference heard statements concerning children's rights.

76. The Vice-President (Mexico), chairing the meeting, made a statement opening the commemoration of the children's day.

77. The Secretary-General of the World Conference made a statement.

78. Statements were also made by the child representatives of the Coalition for the Children of the Earth and the youth representative of the National Child Rights Council of South Africa.

79. Statements were made by the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund, the Chairman of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children of the Commission on Human Rights and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

80. At the 14th plenary meeting, on 21 June 1993, joint statements were made by the representatives of non-governmental organizations on children and youth.

81. At the same meeting, the representative of the non-governmental organization Centre of Concern for Child Labour also made a statement.

82. Within the framework of the World Conference on Human Rights, the following four meetings were held: meeting of the independent experts responsible for the special procedures for the protection of human

rights (14-16 June), meeting of representatives of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (14-15 June), meeting of chairpersons of international and regional treaty-based bodies (15-16 June) and a forum for non-governmental organizations (10-12 June). The reports of these meetings are reproduced in annexes V, VI, VII and VIII respectively of the present report.

83. At its plenary meetings, the World Conference heard statements by the representative of the meeting of the independent experts responsible for the special procedures for the protection of human rights (17), the Chairman of the meeting of representatives of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (18), the Chairman of the meeting of chairpersons of international and regional treaty-based bodies (21) and the general rapporteur of the forum for non-governmental organizations (14).

L. Main Committee

84. The Main Committee held 11 meetings, from 15 to 24 June 1993.

85. At the 22nd plenary meeting, on 25 June 1993, the Chairman of the Main Committee made a statement introducing the report of the Main Committee (A/CONF.157/MC/1).

M. Drafting Committee

86. The Drafting Committee held 20 meetings, from 15 to 25 June 1993, including two formal meetings, where it heard statements by representatives of the United Nations specialized agencies and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system, such as international and regional human rights treaty-based bodies, national human rights institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations.

87. At the 22nd plenary meeting, on 25 June 1993, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee made a statement introducing the report of the Drafting Committee (A/CONF.157/DC/1) together with the draft final declaration adopted by the Drafting Committee (A/CONF.157/DC/1 Add.1-4).

II. ADOPTION OF THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

88. At its 22nd plenary meeting, on 25 June 1993, the Conference adopted, by acclamation, the draft final declaration, as recommended by the Drafting Committee, entitled "The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action" (A/CONF.157/23).

89. The text of the Vienna Declaration, as adopted, is reproduced in chapter III.

90. At the same meeting, statements concerning the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action were made by the representatives of: Argentina, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Egypt, France, Holy See, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malawi, Philippines, Poland (on behalf of the Eastern European Group), Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela (on behalf of the Latin American and the Caribbean Group), Yemen.

91. At the same meeting, the observer for Palestine made a statement.

92. These statements are reproduced in annex IX.

93. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted the draft report of the World Conference on Human Rights (A/CONF.157/L.1 and Add.1-2).

III. VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

The World Conference on Human Rights,

Considering that the promotion and protection of human rights is a matter of priority for the international community, and that the Conference affords a unique opportunity to carry out a comprehensive analysis of the international human rights system and of the machinery for the protection of human rights, in order to enhance and thus promote a fuller observance of those rights, in a just and balanced manner,

Recognizing and affirming that all human rights derive from the dignity and worth inherent in the human person, and that the human person is the central subject of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and consequently should be the principal beneficiary and should participate actively in the realization of these rights and freedoms,

Reaffirming their commitment to the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Reaffirming the commitment contained in Article 56 of the Charter of the United Nations to take joint and separate action, placing proper emphasis on developing effective international cooperation for the realization of the purposes set out in Article 55, including universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Emphasizing the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to develop and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

Recalling also the determination expressed in the Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, to practice tolerance and good neighbourliness, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Emphasizing that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which constitutes a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, is the source of inspiration and has been the basis for the United Nations in making advances in standard setting as contained in the existing international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all the peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and respect for the principle of equal rights and self -determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Deeply concerned by various forms of discrimination and violence, to which women continue to be exposed all over the world,

Recognizing that the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights should be rationalized and enhanced in order to strengthen the United Nations machinery in this field and to further the objectives of universal respect for observance of international human rights standards,

Having taken into account the Declarations adopted by the three regional meetings at Tunis, San José and Bangkok and the contributions made by Governments, and bearing in mind the suggestions made by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the studies prepared by independent experts during the preparatory process leading to the World Conference on Human Rights,

Welcoming the International Year of the World's Indigenous People 1993 as a reaffirmation of the commitment of the international community to ensure their enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to respect the value and diversity of their cultures and identities,

Recognizing also that the international community should devise ways and means to remove the current obstacles and meet challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting thereof throughout the world,

Invoking the spirit of our age and the realities of our time which call upon the peoples of the world and all States Members of the United Nations to rededicate themselves to the global task of promoting and protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms so as to secure full and universal enjoyment of these rights,

Determined to take new steps forward in the commitment of the international community with a view to achieving substantial progress in human rights endeavours by an increased and sustained effort of international cooperation and solidarity,

Solemnly adopts the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

I

1. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for

all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights, and international law. The universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question.

In this framework, enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations.

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings; their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Governments.

2. All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status, and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Taking into account the particular situation of peoples under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, the World Conference on Human Rights recognizes the right of peoples to take any legitimate action, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to realize their inalienable right of self-determination. The World Conference on Human Rights considers the denial of the right of self-determination as a violation of human rights and underlines the importance of the effective realization of this right.

In accordance with the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation Among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, this shall not be construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States conducting themselves in compliance with the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and thus possessed of a Government representing the whole people belonging to the territory without distinction of any kind.

3. Effective international measures to guarantee and monitor the implementation of human rights standards should be taken in respect of people under foreign occupation, and effective legal protection against the violation of their human rights should be provided, in accordance with human rights norms and international law, particularly the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 14 August 1949, and other applicable norms of humanitarian law.

4. The promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms must be considered as a priority objective of the United Nations in accordance with its purposes and principles, in particular the purpose of international cooperation. In the framework of these purposes and principles, the promotion and protection of all human rights is a legitimate concern of the international community. The organs and specialized agencies related to human rights should therefore further enhance the coordination of their activities based on the consistent and objective application of international human rights instruments.

5. All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

6. The efforts of the United Nations system towards the universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, contribute to the stability and well-being necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations, and to improved conditions for peace and security as well as social and economic development, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.

7. The processes of promoting and protecting human rights should be conducted in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and international law.

8. Democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. In the context of the above, the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels should be universal and conducted without conditions attached. The international community should support the strengthening and promoting of democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the entire world.

9. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms that least developed countries committed to the process of democratization and economic reforms, many of which are in Africa, should be supported by the international community in order to succeed in their transition to democracy and economic development.

10. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms the right to development, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development, as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights.

As stated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, the human person is the central subject of development.

While development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights.

States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development. The international community should promote an effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development.

Lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level.

11. The right to development should be fulfilled so as to meet equitably the developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations. The World Conference on Human Rights recognizes that illicit dumping of toxic and dangerous substances and waste potentially constitutes a serious threat to the human rights to life and health of everyone.

Consequently, the World Conference on Human Rights calls on all States to adopt and vigorously implement existing conventions relating to the dumping of toxic and dangerous products and waste and to cooperate in the prevention of illicit dumping.

Everyone has the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. The World Conference on Human Rights notes that certain advances, notably in the biomedical and life sciences as well as in information technology, may have potentially adverse consequences for the integrity, dignity and human rights of the individual, and calls for international cooperation to ensure that human rights and dignity are fully respected in this area of universal concern

12. The World Conference on Human Rights calls upon the international community to make all efforts to help alleviate the external debt burden of developing countries, in order to supplement the efforts of the Governments of such countries to attain the full realization of the economic, social and cultural rights of their people.

13. There is a need for States and international organizations, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, to create favourable conditions at the national, regional and international levels to ensure the full and effective enjoyment of human rights. States should eliminate all violations of human rights and their causes, as well as obstacles to the enjoyment of these rights.

14. The existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights; its immediate alleviation and eventual elimination must remain a high priority for the international community.

15. Respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind is a fundamental rule of international human rights law. The speedy and comprehensive elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is a priority task for the international community. Governments should take effective measures to prevent and combat them. Groups, institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals are urged to intensify their efforts in cooperating and coordinating their activities against these evils.

16. The World Conference on Human Rights welcomes the progress made in dismantling apartheid and calls upon the international community and the United Nations system to assist in this process.

The World Conference on Human Rights also deplores the continuing acts of violence aimed at undermining the quest for a peaceful dismantling of apartheid.

17. The acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as well as linkage in some countries to drug trafficking are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening territorial integrity, security of States and destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments. The international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism.

18. The human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life, at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex are priority objectives of the international community.

Gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation, including those resulting from cultural prejudice and international trafficking, are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person, and must be eliminated. This can be achieved by legal measures and through national action and international cooperation in such fields as economic and social development, education, safe maternity and health care, and social support.

The human rights of women should form an integral part of the United Nations human rights activities, including the promotion of all human rights instruments relating to women.

The World Conference on Human Rights urges Governments, institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights of women and the girl-child.

19. Considering the importance of the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities and the contribution of such promotion and protection to the political and social stability of the States in which such persons live,

The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law in accordance with the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

The persons belonging to minorities have the right to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion and to use their own language in private and in public, freely and without interference or any form of discrimination.

20. The World Conference on Human Rights recognizes the inherent dignity and the unique contribution of indigenous people to the development and plurality of society and strongly reaffirms the commitment of the international community to their economic, social and cultural well-being and their enjoyment of the fruits of sustainable development. States should ensure the full and free participation of indigenous people in all aspects of society, in particular in matters of concern to them. Considering the importance of the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous people, and the contribution of such promotion and protection to the political and social stability of the States in which such people live, States should, in accordance with international law, take concerted positive steps to ensure respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, on the basis of equality and non-discrimination, and recognize the value and diversity of their distinct identities, cultures and social organization.

21. The World Conference on Human Rights, welcoming the early ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by a large number of States and noting the recognition of the human rights of children in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children, urges universal ratification of the Convention by 1995 and its effective implementation by States parties through the adoption of all the necessary legislative, administrative and other measures and the allocation to the maximum extent of the available resources. In all actions concerning children, non-discrimination and the best interest of the child should be primary considerations and the views of the child given due weight. National and international mechanisms and programmes should be strengthened for the defence and protection of children, in particular, the girl-child, abandoned children, street children, economically and sexually exploited children, including through child pornography, child prostitution or sale of organs, children victims of diseases including acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, refugee and displaced children, children in detention, children in armed conflict, as well as children victims of famine and drought and other emergencies. International cooperation and solidarity should be promoted to support the implementation of the Convention and the rights of the child should be a priority in the United Nations system-wide action on human rights.

The World Conference on Human Rights also stresses that the child for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality should grow up in a family environment which accordingly merits broader protection.

22. Special attention needs to be paid to ensuring non-discrimination, and the equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by disabled persons, including their active participation in all aspects of society.

23. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms that everyone, without distinction of any kind, is entitled to the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution, as well as the right to return to one's own country. In this respect it stresses the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol and regional instruments. It expresses its appreciation to States that continue to admit and host large numbers of refugees in their territories, and to the Office of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees for its dedication to its task. It also expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

The World Conference on Human Rights recognizes that gross violations of human rights, including in armed conflicts, are among the multiple and complex factors leading to displacement of people.

The World Conference on Human Rights recognizes that, in view of the complexities of the global refugee crisis and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, relevant international instruments and international solidarity and in the spirit of burden-sharing, a comprehensive approach by the international community is needed in coordination and cooperation with the countries concerned and relevant organizations, bearing in mind the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This should include the development of strategies to address the root causes and effects of movements of refugees and other displaced persons, the strengthening of emergency preparedness and response mechanisms, the provision of effective protection and assistance, bearing in mind the special needs of women and children, as well as the achievement of durable solutions, primarily through the preferred solution of dignified and safe voluntary repatriation, including solutions such as those adopted by the international refugee conferences. The World Conference on Human Rights underlines the responsibilities of States, particularly as they relate to the countries of origin.

In the light of the comprehensive approach, the World Conference on Human Rights emphasizes the importance of giving special attention including through intergovernmental and humanitarian organizations and finding lasting solutions to questions related to internally displaced persons including their voluntary and safe return and rehabilitation.

In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of humanitarian law, the World Conference on Human Rights further emphasizes the importance of and the need for humanitarian assistance to victims of all natural and man-made disasters.

24. Great importance must be given to the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons belonging to groups which have been rendered vulnerable, including migrant workers, the elimination of all forms of discrimination against them, and the strengthening and more effective implementation of existing human rights instruments. States have an obligation to create and maintain adequate measures at the national level, in particular in the fields of education, health and social support, for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons in vulnerable sectors of their populations and to ensure the participation of those among them who are interested in finding a solution to their own problems.

25. The World Conference on Human Rights affirms that extreme poverty and social exclusion constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent steps are necessary to achieve better knowledge of extreme poverty and its causes, including those related to the problem of development, in order to promote the human rights of the poorest, and to put an end to extreme poverty and social exclusion and to promote the enjoyment of the fruits of social progress. It

is essential for States to foster participation by the poorest people in the decision-making process by the community in which they live, the promotion of human rights and efforts to combat extreme poverty.

26. The World Conference on Human Rights welcomes the progress made in the codification of human rights instruments, which is a dynamic and evolving process, and urges the universal ratification of human rights treaties. All States are encouraged to accede to these international instruments; all States are encouraged to avoid, as far as possible, the resort to reservations.

27. Every State should provide an effective framework of remedies to redress human rights grievances or violations. The administration of justice, including law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies and, especially, an independent judiciary and legal profession in full conformity with applicable standards contained in international human rights instruments, are essential to the full and non-discriminatory realization of human rights and indispensable to the processes of democracy and sustainable development. In this context, institutions concerned with the administration of justice should be properly funded, and an increased level of both technical and financial assistance should be provided by the international community. It is incumbent upon the United Nations to make use of special programmes of advisory services on a priority basis for the achievement of a strong and independent administration of justice.

28. The World Conference on Human Rights expresses its dismay at massive violations of human rights especially in the form of genocide, "ethnic cleansing" and systematic rape of women in war situations, creating mass exodus of refugees and displaced persons. While strongly condemning such abhorrent practices it reiterates the call that perpetrators of such crimes be punished and such practices immediately stopped.

29. The World Conference on Human Rights expresses grave concern about continuing human rights violations in all parts of the world in disregard of standards as contained in international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law and about the lack of sufficient and effective remedies for the victims.

The World Conference on Human Rights is deeply concerned about violations of human rights during armed conflicts, affecting the civilian population, especially women, children, the elderly and the disabled. The Conference therefore calls upon States and all parties to armed conflicts strictly to observe international humanitarian law, as set forth in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other rules and principles of international law, as well as minimum standards for protection of human rights, as laid down in international conventions.

The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms the right of the victims to be assisted by humanitarian organizations, as set forth in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other relevant instruments of international humanitarian law, and calls for the safe and timely access for such assistance.

30. The World Conference on Human Rights also expresses its dismay and condemnation that gross and systematic violations and situations that constitute serious obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights continue to occur in different parts of the world. Such violations and obstacles include, as well as torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, summary and arbitrary executions, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, all forms of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, foreign occupation and alien domination, xenophobia, poverty, hunger and other denials of economic, social and cultural rights, religious intolerance, terrorism, discrimination against women and lack of the rule of law.

31. The World Conference on Human Rights calls upon States to refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that creates obstacles to trade relations among States and impedes the full realization of the human rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights instruments, in particular the rights of everyone to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being, including food and medical care, housing and the necessary social services. The World Conference on Human Rights affirms that food should not be used as a tool for political pressure.

32. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues.

33. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms that States are duty-bound, as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in other international human rights instruments, to ensure that education is aimed at strengthening the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The World Conference on Human Rights emphasizes the importance of incorporating the subject of human rights education programmes and calls upon States to do so. Education should promote understanding, tolerance, peace and friendly relations between the nations and all racial or religious groups and encourage the development of United Nations activities in pursuance of these objectives. Therefore, education on human rights and the dissemination of proper information, both theoretical and practical, play an important role in the promotion and respect of human rights with regard to all individuals without distinction of any kind such as race, sex, language or religion, and this should be integrated in the education policies at the national as well as international levels. The World Conference on Human Rights notes that resource constraints and institutional inadequacies may impede the immediate realization of these objectives.

34. Increased efforts should be made to assist countries which so request to create the conditions whereby each individual can enjoy universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. Governments, the United Nations system as well as other multilateral organizations are urged to increase considerably the resources allocated to programmes aiming at the establishment and strengthening of national legislation, national institutions and related

infrastructures which uphold the rule of law and democracy, electoral assistance, human rights awareness through training, teaching and education, popular participation and civil society.

The programmes of advisory services and technical cooperation under the Centre for Human Rights should be strengthened as well as made more efficient and transparent and thus become a major contribution to improving respect for human rights. States are called upon to increase their contributions to these programmes, both through promoting a larger allocation from the United Nations regular budget, and through voluntary contributions.

35. The full and effective implementation of United Nations activities to promote and protect human rights must reflect the high importance accorded to human rights by the Charter of the United Nations and the demands of the United Nations human rights activities, as mandated by Member States. To this end, United Nations human rights activities should be provided with increased resources.

36. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms the important and constructive role played by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities, their role in remedying human rights violations, in the dissemination of human rights information, and education in human rights.

The World Conference on Human Rights encourages the establishment and strengthening of national institutions, having regard to the "Principles relating to the status of national institutions" and recognizing that it is the right of each State to choose the framework which is best suited to its particular needs at the national level.

37. Regional arrangements play a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights. They should reinforce universal human rights standards, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection. The World Conference on Human Rights endorses efforts under way to strengthen these arrangements and to increase their effectiveness, while at the same time stressing the importance of cooperation with the United Nations human rights activities.

The World Conference on Human Rights reiterates the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist.

38. The World Conference on Human Rights recognizes the important role of non-governmental organizations in the promotion of all human rights and in humanitarian activities at national, regional and international levels. The World Conference on Human Rights appreciates their contribution to increasing public awareness of human rights issues, to the conduct of education, training and research in this field, and to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for standard-setting lies with States, the conference also appreciates the contribution of non-governmental organizations to this process. In this respect, the World Conference on Human Rights emphasizes the importance of continued dialogue and cooperation between Governments and

non-governmental organizations. Non-governmental organizations and their members genuinely involved in the field of human rights should enjoy the rights and freedoms recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the protection of the national law. These rights and freedoms may not be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Non-governmental organizations should be free to carry out their human rights activities, without interference, within the framework of national law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

39. Underlining the importance of objective, responsible and impartial information about human rights and humanitarian issues, the World Conference on Human Rights encourages the increased involvement of the media, for whom freedom and protection should be guaranteed within the framework of national law.

II

A. Increased coordination on human rights within the United Nations system

1. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends increased coordination in support of human rights and fundamental freedoms within the United Nations system. To this end, the World Conference on Human Rights urges all United Nations organs, bodies and the specialized agencies whose activities deal with human rights to cooperate in order to strengthen, rationalize and streamline their activities, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication. The World Conference on Human Rights also recommends to the Secretary-General that high-level officials of relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies at their annual meeting, besides coordinating their activities, also assess the impact of their strategies and policies on the enjoyment of all human rights.

2. Furthermore, the World Conference on Human Rights calls on regional organizations and prominent international and regional finance and development institutions to assess also the impact of their policies and programmes on the enjoyment of human rights.

3. The World Conference on Human Rights recognizes that relevant specialized agencies and bodies and institutions of the United Nations system as well as other relevant intergovernmental organizations whose activities deal with human rights play a vital role in the formulation, promotion and implementation of human rights standards, within their respective mandates, and should take into account the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights within their fields of competence.

4. The World Conference on Human Rights strongly recommends that a concerted effort be made to encourage and facilitate the ratification of and accession or succession to international human rights treaties and protocols adopted within the framework of the United Nations system with the aim of universal acceptance. The Secretary-General, in consultation with treaty bodies, should consider opening a dialogue with States not having acceded to these human rights treaties, in order to identify obstacles and to seek ways of overcoming them.

5. The World Conference on Human Rights encourages States to consider limiting the extent of any reservations they lodge to international human rights instruments, formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible, ensure that none is incompatible with the object and purpose of the relevant treaty and regularly review any reservations with a view to withdrawing them.

6. The World Conference on Human Rights, recognizing the need to maintain consistency with the high quality of existing international standards and to avoid proliferation of human rights instruments, reaffirms the guidelines relating to the elaboration of new international instruments contained in General Assembly resolution 41/120 of 4 December 1986 and calls on the United Nations human rights bodies, when considering the elaboration of new international standards, to keep those guidelines in mind, to consult with human rights treaty bodies on the necessity for drafting new standards and to request the Secretariat to carry out technical reviews of proposed new instruments.

7. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that human rights officers be assigned if and when necessary to regional offices of the United Nations Organization with the purpose of disseminating information and offering training and other technical assistance in the field of human rights upon the request of concerned Member States. Human rights training for international civil servants who are assigned to work relating to human rights should be organized.

8. The World Conference on Human Rights welcomes the convening of emergency sessions of the Commission on Human Rights as a positive initiative and that other ways of responding to acute violations of human rights be considered by the relevant organs of the United Nations system.

Resources

9. The World Conference on Human Rights, concerned by the growing disparity between the activities of the Centre for Human Rights and the human, financial and other resources available to carry them out, and bearing in mind the resources needed for other important United Nations programmes, requests the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to take immediate steps to increase substantially the resources for the human rights programme from within the existing and future regular budgets of the United Nations, and to take urgent steps to seek increased extrabudgetary resources.

10. Within this framework, an increased proportion of the regular budget should be allocated directly to the Centre for Human Rights to cover its costs and all other costs borne by the Centre for Human Rights, including those related to the United Nations human rights bodies. Voluntary funding of the Centre's technical cooperation activities should reinforce this enhanced budget; the World Conference on Human Rights calls for generous contributions to the existing trust funds.

11. The World Conference on Human Rights requests the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to provide sufficient human, financial and other resources to the Centre for Human Rights to enable it effectively, efficiently and expeditiously to carry out its activities.

12. The World Conference on Human Rights, noting the need to ensure that human and financial resources are available to carry out the human rights activities, as mandated by intergovernmental bodies, urges the Secretary-General, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, and Member States to adopt a coherent approach aimed at securing that resources commensurate to the increased mandates are allocated to the Secretariat. The World Conference on Human Rights invites the Secretary-General to consider whether adjustments to procedures in the programme budget cycle would be necessary or helpful to ensure the timely and effective implementation of human rights activities as mandated by Member States.

Centre for Human Rights

13. The World Conference on Human Rights stresses the importance of strengthening the United Nations Centre for Human Rights.

14. The Centre for Human Rights should play an important role in coordinating system-wide attention for human rights. The focal role of the Centre can best be realized if it is enabled to cooperate fully with other United Nations bodies and organs. The coordinating role of the Centre for Human Rights also implies that the office of the Centre for Human Rights in New York is strengthened.

15. The Centre for Human Rights should be assured adequate means for the system of thematic and country rapporteurs, experts, working groups and treaty bodies. Follow-up on recommendations should become a priority matter for consideration by the Commission on Human Rights.

16. The Centre for Human Rights should assume a larger role in the promotion of human rights. This role could be given shape through cooperation with Member States and by an enhanced programme of advisory services and technical assistance. The existing voluntary funds will have to be expanded substantially for these purposes and should be managed in a more efficient and coordinated way. All activities should follow strict and transparent project management rules and regular programme and project evaluations should be held periodically. To this end, the results of such evaluation exercises and other relevant information should be made available regularly. The Centre should, in particular, organize at least once a year information meetings open to all Member States and organizations directly involved in these projects and programmes.

Adaptation and strengthening of the United Nations machinery for human rights, including the question of the establishment of a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

17. The World Conference on Human Rights recognizes the necessity for a continuing adaptation of the United Nations human rights machinery to the

current and future needs in the promotion and protection of human rights, as reflected in the present Declaration and within the framework of a balanced and sustainable development for all people. In particular, the United Nations human rights organs should improve their coordination, efficiency and effectiveness.

18. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends to the General Assembly that when examining the report of the Conference at its forty-eighth session, it begin, as a matter of priority, consideration of the question of the establishment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights for the promotion and protection of all human rights.

B. Equality, dignity and tolerance

1. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance

19. The World Conference on Human Rights considers the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, in particular in their institutionalized forms such as apartheid or resulting from doctrines of racial superiority or exclusivity or contemporary forms and manifestations of racism, as a primary objective for the international community and a worldwide promotion programme in the field of human rights. United Nations organs and agencies should strengthen their efforts to implement such a programme of action related to the third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination as well as subsequent mandates to the same end. The World Conference on Human Rights strongly appeals to the international community to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

20. The World Conference on Human Rights urges all Governments to take immediate measures and to develop strong policies to prevent and combat all forms and manifestations of racism, xenophobia or related intolerance, where necessary by enactment of appropriate legislation, including penal measures, and by the establishment of national institutions to combat such phenomena.

21. The World Conference on Human Rights welcomes the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The World Conference on Human Rights also appeals to all States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to consider making the declaration under article 14 of the Convention.

22. The World Conference on Human Rights calls upon all Governments to take all appropriate measures in compliance with their international obligations and with due regard to their respective legal systems to counter intolerance and related violence based on religion or belief, including practices of discrimination against women and including the desecration of religious sites, recognizing that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and religion. The Conference also invites all States to put into practice the provisions of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

23. The World Conference on Human Rights stresses that all persons who perpetrate or authorize criminal acts associated with ethnic cleansing are individually responsible and accountable for such human rights violations, and that the international community should exert every effort to bring those legally responsible for such violations to justice.

24. The World Conference on Human Rights calls on all States to take immediate measures, individually and collectively, to combat the practice of ethnic cleansing to bring it quickly to an end. Victims of the abhorrent practice of ethnic cleansing are entitled to appropriate and effective remedies.

2. Persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities

25. The World Conference on Human Rights calls on the Commission on Human Rights to examine ways and means to promote and protect effectively the rights of persons belonging to minorities as set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. In this context, the World Conference on Human Rights calls upon the Centre for Human Rights to provide, at the request of Governments concerned and as part of its programme of advisory services and technical assistance, qualified expertise on minority issues and human rights, as well as on the prevention and resolution of disputes, to assist in existing or potential situations involving minorities.

26. The World Conference on Human Rights urges States and the international community to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in accordance with the Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

27. Measures to be taken, where appropriate, should include facilitation of their full participation in all aspects of the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of society and in the economic progress and development in their country.

Indigenous people

28. The World Conference on Human Rights calls on the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to complete the drafting of a declaration on the rights of indigenous people at its eleventh session.

29. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that the Commission on Human Rights consider the renewal and updating of the mandate of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations upon completion of the drafting of a declaration on the rights of indigenous people.

30. The World Conference on Human Rights also recommends that advisory services and technical assistance programmes within the United Nations system respond positively to requests by States for assistance which would be of direct benefit to indigenous people. The World Conference on Human Rights

further recommends that adequate human and financial resources be made available to the Centre for Human Rights within the overall framework of strengthening the Centre's activities as envisaged by this document.

31. The World Conference on Human Rights urges States to ensure the full and free participation of indigenous people in all aspects of society, in particular in matters of concern to them.

32. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that the General Assembly proclaim an international decade of the world's indigenous people, to begin from January 1994, including action-orientated programmes, to be decided upon in partnership with indigenous people. An appropriate voluntary trust fund should be set up for this purpose. In the framework of such a decade, the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system should be considered.

Migrant workers

33. The World Conference on Human Rights urges all States to guarantee the protection of the human rights of all migrant workers and their families.

34. The World Conference on Human Rights considers that the creation of conditions to foster greater harmony and tolerance between migrant workers and the rest of the society of the State in which they reside is of particular importance.

35. The World Conference on Human Rights invites States to consider the possibility of signing and ratifying, at the earliest possible time, the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

3. The equal status and human rights of women

36. The World Conference on Human Rights urges the full and equal enjoyment by women of all human rights and that this be a priority for Governments and for the United Nations. The World Conference on Human Rights also underlines the importance of the integration and full participation of women as both agents and beneficiaries in the development process, and reiterates the objectives established on global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development set forth in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and chapter 24 of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3-14 June 1992).

37. The equal status of women and the human rights of women should be integrated into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity. These issues should be regularly and systematically addressed throughout relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms. In particular, steps should be taken to increase cooperation and promote further integration of objectives and goals between the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights, the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Development

Programme and other United Nations agencies. In this context, cooperation and coordination should be strengthened between the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women.

38. In particular, the World Conference on Human Rights stresses the importance of working towards the elimination of violence against women in public and private life, the elimination of all forms of sexual harassment, exploitation and trafficking in women, the elimination of gender bias in the administration of justice and the eradication of any conflicts which may arise between the rights of women and the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices, cultural prejudices and religious extremism. The World Conference on Human Rights calls upon the General Assembly to adopt the draft declaration on violence against women and urges States to combat violence against women in accordance with its provisions. Violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict are violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law. All violations of this kind, including in particular murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery, and forced pregnancy, require a particularly effective response.

39. The World Conference on Human Rights urges the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women, both hidden and overt. The United Nations should encourage the goal of universal ratification by all States of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by the year 2000. Ways and means of addressing the particularly large number of reservations to the Convention should be encouraged. Inter alia, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women should continue its review of reservations to the Convention. States are urged to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or which are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law.

40. Treaty monitoring bodies should disseminate necessary information to enable women to make more effective use of existing implementation procedures in their pursuits of full and equal enjoyment of human rights and non-discrimination. New procedures should also be adopted to strengthen implementation of the commitment to women's equality and the human rights of women. The Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women should quickly examine the possibility of introducing the right of petition through the preparation of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The World Conference on Human Rights welcomes the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to consider the appointment of a special rapporteur on violence against women at its fiftieth session.

41. The World Conference on Human Rights recognizes the importance of the enjoyment by women of the highest standard of physical and mental health throughout their life span. In the context of the World Conference on Women and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the Proclamation of Tehran of 1968, the World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms, on the basis of equality between women and men, a woman's right to accessible and adequate health care and the widest range of family planning services, as well as equal access to education at all levels.

42. Treaty monitoring bodies should include the status of women and the human rights of women in their deliberations and findings, making use of gender-specific data. States should be encouraged to supply information on the situation of women de jure and de facto in their reports to treaty monitoring bodies. The World Conference on Human Rights notes with satisfaction that the Commission on Human Rights adopted at its forty-ninth session resolution 1993/46 of 8 March 1993 stating that rapporteurs and working groups in the field of human rights should also be encouraged to do so. Steps should also be taken by the Division for the Advancement of Women in cooperation with other United Nations bodies, specifically the Centre for Human Rights, to ensure that the human rights activities of the United Nations regularly address violations of women's human rights, including gender-specific abuses. Training for United Nations human rights and humanitarian relief personnel to assist them to recognize and deal with human rights abuses particular to women and to carry out their work without gender bias should be encouraged.

43. The World Conference on Human Rights urges Governments and regional and international organizations to facilitate the access of women to decision-making posts and their greater participation in the decision-making process. It encourages further steps within the United Nations Secretariat to appoint and promote women staff members in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and encourages other principal and subsidiary organs of the United Nations to guarantee the participation of women under conditions of equality.

44. The World Conference on Human Rights welcomes the World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995 and urges that human rights of women should play an important role in its deliberations, in accordance with the priority themes of the World Conference on Women of equality, development and peace.

4. The rights of the child

45. The World Conference on Human Rights reiterates the principle of "First Call for Children" and, in this respect, underlines the importance of major national and international efforts, especially those of the United Nations Children's Fund, for promoting respect for the rights of the child to survival, protection, development and participation.

46. Measures should be taken to achieve universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by 1995 and the universal signing of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children, as well as their effective implementation. The World Conference on Human Rights urges States to withdraw reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international treaty law.

47. The World Conference on Human Rights urges all nations to undertake measures to the maximum extent of their available resources, with the support of international cooperation, to achieve the goals in the World Summit Plan of Action. The Conference calls on States to integrate the Convention on the

Rights of the Child into their national action plans. By means of these national action plans and through international efforts, particular priority should be placed on reducing infant and maternal mortality rates, reducing malnutrition and illiteracy rates and providing access to safe drinking water and to basic education. Whenever so called for, national plans of action should be devised to combat devastating emergencies resulting from natural disasters and armed conflicts and the equally grave problem of children in extreme poverty.

48. The World Conference on Human Rights urges all States, with the support of international cooperation, to address the acute problem of children under especially difficult circumstances. Exploitation and abuse of children should be actively combated, including by addressing their root causes. Effective measures are required against female infanticide, harmful child labour, sale of children and organs, child prostitution, child pornography, as well as other forms of sexual abuse.

49. The World Conference on Human Rights supports all measures by the United Nations and its specialized agencies to ensure the effective protection and promotion of human rights of the girl child. The World Conference on Human Rights urges States to repeal existing laws and regulations and remove customs and practices which discriminate against and cause harm to the girl child.

50. The World Conference on Human Rights strongly supports the proposal that the Secretary-General initiate a study into means of improving the protection of children in armed conflicts. Humanitarian norms should be implemented and measures taken in order to protect and facilitate assistance to children in war zones. Measures should include protection for children against indiscriminate use of all weapons of war, especially anti-personnel mines. The need for aftercare and rehabilitation of children traumatized by war must be addressed urgently. The Conference calls on the Committee on the Rights of the Child to study the question of raising the minimum age of recruitment into armed forces.

51. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that matters relating to human rights and the situation of children be regularly reviewed and monitored by all relevant organs and mechanisms of the United Nations system and by the supervisory bodies of the specialized agencies in accordance with their mandates.

52. The World Conference on Human Rights recognizes the important role played by non-governmental organizations in the effective implementation of all human rights instruments and, in particular, the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

53. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that the Committee on the Rights of the Child, with the assistance of the Centre for Human Rights, be enabled expeditiously and effectively to meet its mandate, especially in view of the unprecedented extent of ratification and subsequent submission of country reports.

5. Freedom from torture

54. The World Conference on Human Rights welcomes the ratification by many Member States of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and encourages its speedy ratification by all other Member States.

55. The World Conference on Human Rights emphasizes that one of the most atrocious violations against human dignity is the act of torture, the result of which destroys the dignity and impairs the capability of victims to continue their lives and their activities.

56. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms that under human rights law and international humanitarian law, freedom from torture is a right which must be protected under all circumstances, including in times of internal or international disturbance or armed conflicts.

57. The World Conference on Human Rights therefore urges all States to put an immediate end to the practice of torture and eradicate this evil forever through full implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as the relevant conventions and, where necessary, strengthening of existing mechanisms. The World Conference on Human Rights calls on all States to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture in the fulfilment of his mandate.

58. Special attention should be given to ensure universal respect for, and effective implementation of, the Principles of Medical Ethics relevant to the Role of Health Personnel, particularly Physicians, in the Protection of Prisoners and Detainees against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

59. The World Conference on Human Rights stresses the importance of further concrete action within the framework of the United Nations with the view to providing assistance to victims of torture and ensure more effective remedies for their physical, psychological and social rehabilitation. Providing the necessary resources for this purpose should be given high priority, inter alia, by additional contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture.

60. States should abrogate legislation leading to impunity for those responsible for grave violations of human rights such as torture and prosecute such violations, thereby providing a firm basis for the rule of law.

61. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms that efforts to eradicate torture should, first and foremost, be concentrated on prevention and, therefore, calls for the early adoption of an optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which is intended to establish a preventive system of regular visits to places of detention.

Enforced disappearances

62. The World Conference on Human Rights, welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, calls upon all States to take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent, terminate and punish acts of enforced disappearances. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms that it is the duty of all States, under any circumstances, to make investigations whenever there is reason to believe that an enforced disappearance has taken place on a territory under their jurisdiction and, if allegations are confirmed, to prosecute its perpetrators.

6. The rights of the disabled person

63. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal and thus unreservedly include persons with disabilities. Every person is born equal and has the same rights to life and welfare, education and work, living independently and active participation in all aspects of society. Any direct discrimination or other negative discriminatory treatment of a disabled person is therefore a violation of his or her rights. The World Conference on Human Rights calls on Governments, where necessary, to adopt or adjust legislation to assure access to these and other rights for disabled persons.

64. The place of disabled persons is everywhere. Persons with disabilities should be guaranteed equal opportunity through the elimination of all socially determined barriers, be they physical, financial, social or psychological, which exclude or restrict full participation in society.

65. Recalling the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, the World Conference on Human Rights calls upon the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to adopt the draft standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities, at their meetings in 1993.

C. Cooperation, development and strengthening of human rights

66. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that priority be given to national and international action to promote democracy, development and human rights.

67. Special emphasis should be given to measures to assist in the strengthening and building of institutions relating to human rights, strengthening of a pluralistic civil society and the protection of groups which have been rendered vulnerable. In this context, assistance provided upon the request of Governments for the conduct of free and fair elections, including assistance in the human rights aspects of elections and public information about elections, is of particular importance. Equally important is the assistance to be given to the strengthening of the rule of law, the promotion of freedom of expression and the administration of justice, and to the real and effective participation of the people in the decision-making processes.

68. The World Conference on Human Rights stresses the need for the implementation of strengthened advisory services and technical assistance activities by the Centre for Human Rights. The Centre should make available to States upon request assistance on specific human rights issues, including the preparation of reports under human rights treaties as well as for the implementation of coherent and comprehensive plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights. Strengthening the institutions of human rights and democracy, the legal protection of human rights, training of officials and others, broad-based education and public information aimed at promoting respect for human rights should all be available as components of these programmes.

69. The World Conference on Human Rights strongly recommends that a comprehensive programme be established within the United Nations in order to help States in the task of building and strengthening adequate national structures which have a direct impact on the overall observance of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law. Such a programme, to be coordinated by the Centre for Human Rights, should be able to provide, upon the request of the interested Government, technical and financial assistance to national projects in reforming penal and correctional establishments, education and training of lawyers, judges and security forces in human rights, and any other sphere of activity relevant to the good functioning of the rule of law. That programme should make available to States assistance for the implementation of plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights.

70. The World Conference on Human Rights requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit proposals to the United Nations General Assembly, containing alternatives for the establishment, structure, operational modalities and funding of the proposed programme.

71. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that each State consider the desirability of drawing up a national action plan identifying steps whereby that State would improve the promotion and protection of human rights.

72. The World Conference on Human Rights on Human Rights reaffirms that the universal and inalienable right to development, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development, must be implemented and realized. In this context, the World Conference on Human Rights welcomes the appointment by the Commission on Human Rights of a thematic working group on the right to development and urges that the Working Group, in consultation and cooperation with other organs and agencies of the United Nations system, promptly formulate, for early consideration by the United Nations General Assembly, comprehensive and effective measures to eliminate obstacles to the implementation and realization of the Declaration on the Right to Development and recommending ways and means towards the realization of the right to development by all States.

73. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that non-governmental and other grass-roots organizations active in development and/or human rights should be enabled to play a major role on the national and international

levels in the debate, activities and implementation relating to the right to development and, in cooperation with Governments, in all relevant aspects of development cooperation.

74. The World Conference on Human Rights appeals to Governments, competent agencies and institutions to increase considerably the resources devoted to building well-functioning legal systems able to protect human rights, and to national institutions working in this area. Actors in the field of development cooperation should bear in mind the mutually reinforcing interrelationship between development, democracy and human rights. Cooperation should be based on dialogue and transparency. The World Conference on Human Rights also calls for the establishment of comprehensive programmes, including resource banks of information and personnel with expertise relating to the strengthening of the rule of law and of democratic institutions.

75. The World Conference on Human Rights encourages the Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to continue the examination of optional protocols to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

76. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that more resources be made available for the strengthening or the establishment of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programmes of advisory services and technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights. States are encouraged to request assistance for such purposes as regional and subregional workshops, seminars and information exchanges designed to strengthen regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in accord with universal human rights standards as contained in international human rights instruments.

77. The World Conference on Human Rights supports all measures by the United Nations and its relevant specialized agencies to ensure the effective promotion and protection of trade union rights, as stipulated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international instruments. It calls on all States to abide fully by their obligations in this regard contained in international instruments.

D. Human rights education

78. The World Conference on Human Rights considers human rights education, training and public information essential for the promotion and achievement of stable and harmonious relations among communities and for fostering mutual understanding, tolerance and peace.

79. States should strive to eradicate illiteracy and should direct education towards the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The World Conference on Human Rights calls on all States and institutions to include human rights, humanitarian law, democracy and rule of law as subjects in the curricula of all learning institutions in formal and non-formal settings.

80. Human rights education should include peace, democracy, development and social justice, as set forth in international and regional human rights instruments, in order to achieve common understanding and awareness with a view to strengthening universal commitment to human rights.

81. Taking into account the World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy, adopted in March 1993 by the International Congress on Education for Human Rights and Democracy of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and other human rights instruments, the World Conference on Human Rights recommends that States develop specific programmes and strategies for ensuring the widest human rights education and the dissemination of public information, taking particular account of the human rights needs of women.

82. Governments, with the assistance of intergovernmental organizations, national institutions and non-governmental organizations, should promote an increased awareness of human rights and mutual tolerance. The World Conference on Human Rights underlines the importance of strengthening the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights carried out by the United Nations. They should initiate and support education in human rights and undertake effective dissemination of public information in this field. The advisory services and technical assistance programmes of the United Nations system should be able to respond immediately to requests from States for educational and training activities in the field of human rights as well as for special education concerning standards as contained in international human rights instruments and in humanitarian law and their application to special groups such as military forces, law enforcement personnel, police and the health profession. The proclamation of a United Nations decade for human rights education in order to promote, encourage and focus these educational activities should be considered.

E. Implementation and monitoring methods

83. The World Conference on Human Rights urges Governments to incorporate standards as contained in international human rights instruments in domestic legislation and to strengthen national structures, institutions and organs of society which play a role in promoting and safeguarding human rights.

84. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends the strengthening of United Nations activities and programmes to meet requests for assistance by States which want to establish or strengthen their own national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

85. The World Conference on Human Rights also encourages the strengthening of cooperation between national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly through exchanges of information and experience, as well as cooperation with regional organizations and the United Nations.

86. The World Conference on Human Rights strongly recommends in this regard that representatives of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights convene periodic meetings under the auspices of the Centre for Human Rights to examine ways and means of improving their mechanisms and sharing experiences.

87. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends to the human rights treaty bodies, to the meetings of chairpersons of the treaty bodies and to the meetings of States parties that they continue to take steps aimed at coordinating the multiple reporting requirements and guidelines for preparing State reports under the respective human rights conventions and study the suggestion that the submission of one overall report on treaty obligations undertaken by each State would make these procedures more effective and increase their impact.

88. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that the States parties to international human rights instruments, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should consider studying the existing human rights treaty bodies and the various thematic mechanisms and procedures with a view to promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness through better coordination of the various bodies, mechanisms and procedures, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping of their mandates and tasks.

89. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends continued work on the improvement of the functioning, including the monitoring tasks, of the treaty bodies, taking into account multiple proposals made in this respect, in particular those made by the treaty bodies themselves and by the meetings of the chairpersons of the treaty bodies. The comprehensive national approach taken by the Committee on the Rights of the Child should also be encouraged.

90. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that States parties to human rights treaties consider accepting all the available optional communication procedures.

91. The World Conference on Human Rights views with concern the issue of impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations, and supports the efforts of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to examine all aspects of the issue.

92. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that the Commission on Human Rights examine the possibility for better implementation of existing human rights instruments at the international and regional levels and encourages the International Law Commission to continue its work on an international criminal court.

93. The World Conference on Human Rights appeals to States which have not yet done so to accede to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Protocols thereto, and to take all appropriate national measures, including legislative ones, for their full implementation.

94. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends the speedy completion and adoption of the draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

95. The World Conference on Human Rights underlines the importance of preserving and strengthening the system of special procedures, rapporteurs, representatives, experts and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights

and the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in order to enable them to carry out their mandates in all countries throughout the world, providing them with the necessary human and financial resources. The procedures and mechanisms should be enabled to harmonize and rationalize their work through periodic meetings. All States are asked to cooperate fully with these procedures and mechanisms.

96. The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that the United Nations assume a more active role in the promotion and protection of human rights in ensuring full respect for international humanitarian law in all situations of armed conflict, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

97. The World Conference on Human Rights, recognizing the important role of human rights components in specific arrangements concerning some peace-keeping operations by the United Nations, recommends that the Secretary-General take into account the reporting, experience and capabilities of the Centre for Human Rights and human rights mechanisms, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.

98. To strengthen the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, additional approaches should be examined, such as a system of indicators to measure progress in the realization of the rights set forth in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. There must be a concerted effort to ensure recognition of economic, social and cultural rights at the national, regional and international levels.

F. Follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights

99. The World Conference on Human Rights on Human Rights recommends that the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and other organs and agencies of the United Nations system related to human rights consider ways and means for the full implementation, without delay, of the recommendations contained in the present Declaration, including the possibility of proclaiming a United Nations decade for human rights. The World Conference on Human Rights further recommends that the Commission on Human Rights annually review the progress towards this end.

100. The World Conference on Human Rights requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to invite on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights all States, all organs and agencies of the United Nations system related to human rights, to report to him on the progress made in the implementation of the present Declaration and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council. Likewise, regional and, as appropriate, national human rights institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, may present their views to the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the present Declaration. Special attention should be paid to assessing the progress towards the goal of universal ratification of international human rights treaties and protocols adopted within the framework of the United Nations system.

IV. DECISION, SPECIAL DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE WORLD CONFERENCE

A. Decision

Appeal to the Security Council regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina

At its 5th plenary meeting, on 15 June 1993, the World Conference on Human Rights, after hearing the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, decided, without a vote, to appeal to the Security Council to take the necessary measures to end the genocide taking place in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in particular at Gorazde.

[see chap. I, sect. I.]

B. Special declarations

Special declaration on Bosnia and Herzegovina

The World Conference on Human Rights adopts the following special declaration on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The United Nations World Conference on Human Rights, mindful of its objective to uphold and promote full respect for and effective promotion of human rights, and bearing in mind its appeal made to the Security Council on the tragedy in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, declares that,

The tragedy in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, characterized by naked Serbian aggression, unprecedented violations of human rights and genocide, is an affront to the collective conscience of mankind,

Hundreds and thousands of innocent civilians have been slaughtered, incarcerated and forced to flee their homes because of the reprehensible policy of ethnic cleansing. Over 40,000 Bosnian women have been subjected to the gruesome crime of rape,

At present, over 70 per cent of the territory of a State Member of the United Nations, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is under Serbian occupation, the remaining few towns under Bosnian control are under constant siege and their residents are being deliberately starved,

This situation calls for urgent and resolute action by the international community,

Therefore,

The United Nations World Conference on Human Rights categorically condemns the ongoing aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the heinous practice of ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity, particularly the extermination of its Muslim population.

The World Conference believes that the practice of ethnic cleaning resulting from Serbian aggression against the Muslim and Croat population in

the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina constitutes genocide in violation of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The World Conference affirms that the failure of the international community to prevent and punish genocide and redress atrocities in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina calls into question the commitment of the international community to the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms all over the world.

The World Conference strongly condemns Serbia-Montenegro, the Yugoslav National Army, the Serbian militia and the extremist elements in the Bosnian Croatian militia forces as perpetrators of these crimes.

The World Conference, in order to restore the credibility of and the trust in the United Nations as the custodian of international law and human rights, gives the highest priority to addressing the tragic situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and urges the international community to assume full responsibility to restore peace and stability in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina based on the principles of justice, independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, including the inviolability of its internationally recognized borders.

The World Conference categorically rejects the aggressor plan to partition the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The World Conference urges the world community and all international bodies, in particular the Security Council, to take forceful and decisive steps for effective measures of peace-making in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina with a view to:

1. Preventing and punishing genocide in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. Rejecting any acquisition of territory in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the use of force, and calling upon all occupying forces to withdraw immediately from those territories.

3. Calling upon the Security Council to implement the Vance-Owen Peace Plan under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. Immediately implementing an effective cease-fire, accompanied by the neutralization of all heavy weaponry, which should be placed under the control of the United Nations Protection Force, and the interdiction of all arms supplies to Serbian forces operating in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

5. Simultaneously implementing effective measures to secure the roll-back of invasion unless the invading forces voluntarily withdraw.

6. Lifting the arms embargo against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to enable it to exercise its right to self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter and implementing all necessary measures under the Charter in order to reverse the aggression perpetrated by Serbian forces.

7. Extending immediate humanitarian help for the relief of persons in besieged towns and cities as well as other victims.

8. Restoring the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

9. Implementing speedily Security Council resolution 808 (1993) of 22 February 1993 which established an international tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, and bringing immediately to trial all persons suspected of committing crimes against humanity, including war crimes.

10. Effectively eradicating the tragic consequences of the aggression and the human rights violations in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, by way of joint international efforts for the reconstruction of the political and physical institutions of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

11. Enabling all refugees, deportees and displaced persons to return safely to their homes in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and restoring their properties, hence rejecting any documents signed by them under duress.

12. Strongly warning against and rejecting any intention to use the safe-haven areas in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as permanent refugee camps which would perpetuate the fruits of aggression, occupation and territorial gains.

The World Conference, on behalf of the international community, pledges its solidarity with the people and the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and urges the Security Council to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, particularly under Article 24, by taking all prompt and effective measures in order to restore peace and affirm the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and uphold the human rights of its people.

24 June 1993

[Adopted by 88 votes to 1 with 54 abstentions.
See chap. I, sect. I.]

Special declaration on Angola

The World Conference on Human Rights,

Mindful of its objective to uphold and promote full respect for and effective promotion of human rights,

Recalling the signing of the Peace Accords for Angola on 31 May 1991,

Recalling that democratic elections were held on 29 and 30 September 1992, which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and other international observers certified as being generally free and fair, and that steps have been taken to set up a Government of National Unity which would reflect the results of the legislative elections, and deeply regretting the failure of UNITA to take part in the political institutions thus established,

Alarmed at the continuing and unnecessary loss of innocent lives resulting from the resumption of war,

Alarmed also at the deliberate targeting of the civilian population and economic and social structures, in total disregard of international humanitarian law and internationally recognized human rights standards and norms,

Disturbed by the current situation of civil strife which has resulted in more than 3 million refugees and internally displaced persons,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 804 (1993) of 29 January 1993, 811 (1993) of 12 March 1993 and 834 (1993) of 1 June 1993,

Urges the international community and all international bodies, in particular the Security Council, to take forceful and decisive steps with a view to:

(a) Immediately implementing an effective cease-fire and restoring peace and security in the Republic of Angola;

(b) Calling upon the Security Council to implement rapidly its resolutions 804 (1993), 811 (1993) and 834 (1993);

(c) Applying pressure on UNITA to accept unreservedly the results of the democratic elections of 1992 and abide fully by the Peace Accords;

(d) Urging all States to refrain from any action which directly or indirectly could jeopardize the implementation of the Peace Accords, and in this context urges all States to refrain from providing any form of direct or indirect military assistance or other support to UNITA inconsistent with the peace process;

(e) Extending immediate humanitarian assistance to the millions of refugees and internally displaced persons;

(f) Effectively eradicating the consequences of the resumption of war and the human rights violations arising therefrom by way of joint international efforts for the reconstruction of the political, economic and social institutions of the Republic of Angola;

(g) Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the preservation of the unity and territorial integrity of Angola.

24 June 1993

[Adopted, without a vote.
See chap. I, sect. I.]

C. Resolution

Credentials of representatives to the World Conference on Human Rights

The World Conference on Human Rights,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

24 June 1993

[Adopted without a vote.
See chap. I, sect. G.]